



# WORKFORCE SCHEDULING



## Outline

- Days-Off Scheduling
- Shift Scheduling
- Cyclic Staffing Problem
- Applications and Extensions of Cyclic Staffing
- Crew Scheduling
- Operator Scheduling in a Call Center

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## Workforce timetabling

- Arrange shifts and assign people to them
- Constraints:
  - Number of people per shift
  - Minimum days off ( $x/k$  days must be off)
  - Weekends
- Nurses, call centers, hotels, restaurants, plane crew, factories, etc.

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## Days-Off Scheduling

- Days-Off Scheduling

**NOT**

Off-Days Scheduling:

“Scheduling workers who fall asleep on the job is not easy.”



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## Days-Off Scheduling

- Number of workers assigned to each day
- Fixed size of workforce
- **Problem:** find minimum number of employees to cover a week operation

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## Constraints

- Demand per day  $n_j$ ,  $j = 1, 2, \dots, 7$  ( $n_1$  is Sunday;  $n_7$  is Saturday)
- Each employee is given  $k_1$  out of every  $k_2$  weekends (days 1 and 7) off
- Each employee works 5 out of 7 days
- Each employee works no more than 6 consecutive days

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## Optimal schedule

- **Objective:** find minimum workforce size  $W$
- ❑ Optimal schedule is generated for one week at a time
  - schedule for week  $i+1$  is determined after schedule of week  $i$ , and so on.
- ❑ Cyclic optimal schedule exists that it repeats itself.

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## Lower bounds on minimum size of $W$

- ❑ Weekend constraint
 
$$(k_2 - k_1)W \geq k_2 \max(n_1, n_7) \rightarrow W \geq \left\lceil \frac{k_2 \max(n_1, n_7)}{k_2 - k_1} \right\rceil = B_1$$
- ❑ Total demand constraint
 
$$5W \geq \sum_{j=1}^7 n_j \quad \text{or} \quad W \geq \frac{1}{5} \sum_{j=1}^7 n_j = B_2$$
- ❑ Maximum daily demand constraint
 
$$W \geq \max(n_1, n_2, \dots, n_7) = B_3$$

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## Optimal schedule

$$W = \max(B_1, B_2, B_3)$$

$$n = \max(n_1, n_7)$$

$$u_j = \begin{cases} W - n_j & j = 2, \dots, 6 \\ n - n_j & j = 1, 7 \end{cases}$$

- ❑  $u_j$  is the surplus number of employees in day  $j$
- ❑ The second lower bound guarantees:

$$\sum_{j=1}^7 u_j \geq 2n$$

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## Algorithm

- ❑ Schedule weekends off
  - ❑ Determine additional off days (in pairs)
  - ❑ Categorize employees
  - ❑ Assign off-day pairs to employees
- Can be shown that schedule is feasible and optimal
- A cyclic optimal schedule exists

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## Example 12.2.2 (Pinedo)

- ❑ Consider the following requirements:

day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Requir.	1	0	3	3	3	3	2

- ❑ Employee requires 1 out of 3 weekends off:  $k_1=1$ ,  $k_2=3$ .
- $n = \max(n_1, n_7) = 2$

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## Step 1: Weekends off

- ❑ Compute the minimum workforce:
 
$$W \geq \lceil (3 \times 2) / (3 - 1) \rceil = 3,$$

$$W \geq \lceil 15 / 5 \rceil = 3,$$

$$W \geq 3$$
- ❑ Thus,  $W = 3$  and  $W - n = 1$ .
- ❑ Assign 1<sup>st</sup> **weekend off** to first  $W - n$  employees, 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend off to the next  $W - n$  and so on.
  - Employee 1 comes after employee  $W$
  - Cycle until you assign employee 1 to the same weekend off again

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## Step 1: Weekends off

day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Req.	1	0	3	3	3	3	2

$$W = 3$$

$$n = 2$$

So, 1 employee is off each weekend

	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1																						
2																						
3																						

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## Step 1: Weekends off

day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Req.	1	0	3	3	3	3	2

$$W = 3$$

$$n = 2$$

So, 1 employee is off each weekend

	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	X	X																				X
2						X	X															
3														X	X							

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## Step 2: Construct off-day pairs

- ☐ There are 1 surplus employee on Sunday and 3 on Monday:

day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
$u_j$	1	3	0	0	0	0	0

- ☐ Construct a list of day-pairs with over-capacity

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## Step 2: Construct off-day pairs

- ☐ Pick  $u_k$
- ☐ Pick another day  $u_m$  ( $m \neq k$ ),  $u_m > 0$ 
  - If all  $u_m = 0$ ,  $m \neq k$ , choose  $m = k$
- ☐ Add  $(k, m)$  to list and decrease  $u_k$  and  $u_m$  by 1
- ☐ Repeat  $n$  times
- ☐ Pairs  $(k, k)$  are called “non-distinct” pairs

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## Step 2: Construct off-day pairs

day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Req.	1	0	3	3	3	3	2
$u_j$	1	3	0	0	0	0	0

$$W = 3$$

$$n = 2$$

(Mon, Sun)

$$u_k = u_2 = 3$$

$$u_m = u_1 = 1$$

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## Step 2: Construct off-day pairs

day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Req.	1	0	3	3	3	3	2
$u_j$	0	2	0	0	0	0	0

$$W = 3$$

$$n = 2$$

(Mon, Sun)

(Mon, Mon)

$$u_k = u_2 = 2$$

$$u_m = u_1 = 2$$

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### Step 2: Construct off-day pairs

day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Req.	1	0	3	3	3	3	2
$u_j$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

$$W = 3$$

$$n = 2$$

(Mon, Sun)  
(Mon, Mon)

- The pairs are: (Mon, Sun) and (Mon, Mon)

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### Step 3: Categorize workers

- Week 1 employees fall into 4 groups:
- Type 1: weekend 1 off, 0 off days, weekend 2 off
  - Type 2: weekend 1 off, 1 off day, weekend 2 on
  - Type 3: weekend 1 on, 1 off day, weekend 2 off
  - Type 4: weekend 1 on, 2 off days, weekend 2 on
- $n$  people working each weekend, so
- $|T3| + |T4| = n$  (weekend 1)
  - $|T2| + |T4| = n$  (weekend 2)

Thus  $|T3| = |T2|$

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### Step 3: Categorize workers

day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Req.	1	0	3	3	3	3	2

$$W = 3 \quad (\text{Mon, Sun})$$

$$n = 2 \quad (\text{Mon, Mon})$$

$T1 = \{\}$   
 $T2 = \{1\}$   
 $T3 = \{2\}$   
 $T4 = \{3\}$

	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	X	X																				X
2								X	X													
3															X	X						

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### Step 3: Categorize workers

- Assign off-day pairs to workers
- First to T4 – they get both days off
- Second to (T2, T3) pairs
- T3 gets earlier day
  - T2 gets later day

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### Step 4: Assign off-day pairs

day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Req.	1	0	3	3	3	3	2

$$W = 3 \quad (\text{Mon, Sun})$$

$$n = 2 \quad (\text{Mon, Mon})$$

$T1 = \{\}$   
 $T2 = \{1\}$   
 $T3 = \{2\}$   
 $T4 = \{3\}$

	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	X	X	X																			X
2			X					X	X													
3		X	X												X	X						

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### Step 4: Assign off-day pairs for week $i$

- Categorize workers for week  $i$
- Case 1: All off-days are distinct
- $T4(i) = T4(i-1)$ ,  $T3(i) = T3(i-1)$
  - T4 gets both days off, T3 gets earlier day, T2 gets later day
- Case 2: Not all off-days are distinct
- Week  $i$  schedule is identical to week 1

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### Step 4: Assign off-day pairs for week 2

day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Req.	1	0	3	3	3	3	2

$W = 3$  (Mon, Sun)  
 $n = 2$  (Mon, Mon)  
 $T1 = \{ \}$   
 $T2 = \{ 2 \}$   
 $T3 = \{ 3 \}$   
 $T4 = \{ 1 \}$

	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	X	X	X																			X
2			X					X	X													
3		X	X												X	X						

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### Step 4: Assign off-day pairs for week 2

day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Req.	1	0	3	3	3	3	2

$W = 3$  (Mon, Sun)  
 $n = 2$  (Mon, Mon)  
 $T1 = \{ \}$   
 $T2 = \{ 2 \}$   
 $T3 = \{ 3 \}$   
 $T4 = \{ 1 \}$

	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	X	X	X					X	X													X
2			X					X	X	X												
3		X	X						X						X	X						

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### Step 4: Assign off-day pairs for week 3

day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Req.	1	0	3	3	3	3	2

$W = 3$  (Mon, Sun)  
 $n = 2$  (Mon, Mon)  
 $T1 = \{ \}$   
 $T2 = \{ 3 \}$   
 $T3 = \{ 1 \}$   
 $T4 = \{ 2 \}$

	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	X	X	X					X	X													X
2			X					X	X	X												
3		X	X							X					X	X						

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### Step 4: Assign off-day pairs for week 3

day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Req.	1	0	3	3	3	3	2

$W = 3$  (Mon, Sun)  
 $n = 2$  (Mon, Mon)  
 $T1 = \{ \}$   
 $T2 = \{ 3 \}$   
 $T3 = \{ 1 \}$   
 $T4 = \{ 2 \}$

	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	X	X	X					X	X						X							X
2			X					X	X	X					X	X						
3		X	X						X					X	X	X						

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### Discussion

- ☐ No employee works more than 6 consecutive days; the schedule produces a six-day work-stretch for one employee each week.
- ☐ This cannot be avoided since the solution is unique.

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### Alg 12.2.1 (Pinedo) overview

- ☐ Calculate  $W$
  - ☐ Step 1: Assign weekends off
  - ☐ Step 2: Construct off-day pairs
- Repeat for cycle of weeks:
- ☐ Step 3: Categorize week  $i$  workers
  - ☐ Step 4: Assign off-day pairs for week  $i$

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## Algorithm properties

- ❑ If all off-pairs are distinct  $\Rightarrow$  maximum work-stretch is 5 days.
- ❑ Schedule always satisfies the constraints.
- ❑ There exists an optimal cyclic schedule, that **may** be found by the algorithm.

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## Shift scheduling

- ❑ Fixed cycle
  - Month, week, day
- ❑ Predefined set of shift patterns
  - Each worker is assigned to exactly one pattern
  - Each pattern has its own cost
- **Assign workers to patterns such that staffing requirements are met and cost is minimized**

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## Shift scheduling

- ❑ A cycle consisting of  $m$  periods is given
- ❑ During period  $i$ ,  $b_i$  employees are required
- ❑ There are  $n$  shift patterns, Shift pattern  $j$  is defined as  $(a_{1j}, a_{2j}, \dots, a_{mj})$ .  $a_{ij}$  can be 0 or 1.
- ❑ Each employee is assigned to exactly one shift pattern
- ❑ Cost of assigning a person to shift  $j$  is  $c_j$
- ❑ Decision variable  $x_j$  is the number of people assigned to shift  $j$

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## Integer Programming problem

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\text{minimize} && c_1x_1 + c_2x_2 + \dots + c_nx_n \\
 &\text{subject to} && a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n \geq b_1 \\
 & && a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n \geq b_2 \\
 & && \vdots \\
 & && a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \dots + a_{mn}x_n \geq b_m \\
 & && x_j \geq 0
 \end{aligned}$$

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## Integer Linear Program

- ❑ Matrix formulation:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \min \quad & \sum_{j=1}^n c_j x_j & \min \quad & cx \\
 \text{s.t.} \quad & \sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij} x_j \geq b_i & & Ax \geq b \\
 & x_j \geq 0 & & x \geq 0
 \end{aligned}$$

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## Solution

- ❑ Strongly NP-hard in general
- ❑ Special structure in shift pattern matrix
  - e.g. having no split shifts
- ❑ Solve LP relaxation
  - Solution always integer when each column contains a contiguous set of ones:
- **LP optimization in polynomial time!**

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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### Example 12.3.1 (Pinedo)

#### Shift scheduling in a retail store

Pattern	Hours	Total Hours	Cost (€)
1	10AM – 6PM	8	50
2	1PM – 9PM	8	60
3	12PM – 6PM	6	30
4	10AM – 1PM	3	15
5	6PM – 9PM	3	16

Hour	Staff req.
10AM – 11AM	3
11AM – 12PM	4
12PM – 1PM	6
1PM – 2PM	4
2PM – 3PM	7
3PM – 4PM	8
4PM – 5PM	7
5PM – 6PM	6
6PM – 7PM	4
7PM – 8PM	7
8PM – 9PM	8

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### LP formulation

$$c = (50, 60, 30, 15, 16)$$

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 6 \\ 4 \\ 7 \\ 8 \\ 7 \\ 6 \\ 4 \\ 7 \\ 8 \end{bmatrix}$$

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### Solution

#### Linear program relaxation (to be given in Optimization and Decision):

$$x = (0, 0, 8, 4, 8)$$

- A special case of shift scheduling, the **cyclic staffing problem**, is discussed in the following.
- Cyclic staffing is solvable in polynomial time.

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### Cyclic staffing

- An  $m$ -period cyclic schedule (e.g. 24 hours a day)
- Each period  $i$  has requirement  $b_i$
- Each person works  $k$  consecutive periods and is free for the next  $m - k$
- Again,  $c_j$  is the cost of putting a worker on pattern  $j$
- Find minimum cost schedule

➤ **Example:** (5, 7)-cyclic staffing problem

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### (5,7)-cyclic staffing problem

#### Integer Program with 7 different shift patterns:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Columns do not always have a contiguous set of 1's.

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### Solution

- Special structure makes the problem relatively simple.

#### Algorithm

- Step 1:** Solve LP relaxation to obtain  $x'_1, x'_2, \dots, x'_n$  if integer STOP; otherwise continue

- Step 2:** Formulate two new LPs adding the constraints:

$$x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n = \lfloor x'_1 + x'_2 + \dots + x'_n \rfloor$$

$$x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n = \lceil x'_1 + x'_2 + \dots + x'_n \rceil$$

- The best integer solution is optimal

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## Example

□ (3,5)-cyclic staffing problem

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad b = \begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \\ 6 \\ 4 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}$$



## Solution

□ **Step 1:** Solve the LP relaxation

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_x cx \\ & \text{subject to} \\ & Ax \leq b \\ & x \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

□ Solution:  $\bar{x}' = (1.5, 0, 4.5, 0, 2.5)$

Non-integer



## Solution

□ Add together:  $1.5 + 0 + 4.5 + 0 + 2.5 = 8.5$

□ **Step 2a:** Add constraint:

$$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 + x_5 = 8$$

➤ No feasible solution

□ **Step 2b:** Add constraint:

$$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4 + x_5 = 9$$

□ **Solution:**

$$\bar{x} = (2, 0, 4, 1, 2) \leftarrow \text{Optimal}$$



## Cyclic staffing: extensions

Possible **applications and extensions** of cyclic staffing:

1. Days-off scheduling
2. Cyclic staffing with overtime
3. Cyclic staffing with linear penalties for understaffing or overstaffing



## 1. Days-off scheduling

□ Days-off scheduling problem can be represented as a cyclic staffing problem

- all the shift patterns must be determined

➤ **Difficulty:** unknown cycle length

➤ **Difficulty:** many patterns  $\Rightarrow$  larger problem



## Example

□ 2 days off in a week and maximum work-stretch of 6:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 & \dots \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 & \dots \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 & \dots \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 & \dots \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 0 & \dots \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 0 & \dots \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & \dots & 1 & \dots \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 1 & \dots \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 & \dots \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 & \dots \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots & 0 & \dots \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots & 1 & \dots \end{bmatrix}$$





## 2. Cyclic staffing with overtime

- 24-hour operation (e.g. hospitals)
- 8-hour shifts with up to 8 hour overtime
- 3 shift of 8 hours each.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad [0 \setminus 1] = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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## 3. Penalties for under/overstaffing

- Demand not fixed
- Linear penalty  $c'_i$  for understaffing
- Linear penalty  $c''_i$  for overstaffing
- Let  $x'_i$  denote the level of understaffing

➤ **Integer Program** (solved cyclic staffing algorithm):

$$\begin{aligned} \min \quad & \bar{c} \bar{x} + \bar{c}' x' + \bar{c}'' (\bar{b} - A\bar{x} - x') \\ \text{subject to} \quad & A\bar{x} + Ix' \geq \bar{b} \\ & \bar{x}, x' \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

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## Crew scheduling

- Given a set of jobs, as e.g. flight legs
- Crew requirements for each flight
- Find an assignment of crews to flight legs so that all crews return home (round trips).
- Flight legs have timings
  - Crews need to be in the right place at the right time
- Crews have work regulations
  - Break periods, maximum time without rest, etc.

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## Crew scheduling

- Crews for all flights within an airline need to be coordinated.
- *Very important in transportation industry, especially in airline industry*
  - planes, trains, trucks, buses, ...
- Often it is a combined routing and crew scheduling problem: **vehicle routing** plus **crew scheduling**!

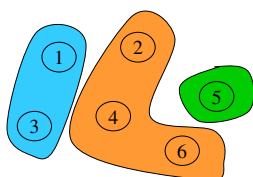
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## Problem definition

- Set of  $m$  jobs, say flight legs; each job has a start and end place and a time interval
- Set of  $n$  feasible combination of jobs a crew is permitted to do → note that  $n$  is very large!



$m = 6$

**Set partitioning problem**

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## Problem definition

- Cost  $c_j$  of round trip  $j$
- Definitions:

$$a_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if leg } i \text{ is part of round trip } j \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$x_j = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if round trip } j \text{ is selected} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

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## Integer Program

minimize  $c_1x_1 + c_2x_2 + \dots + c_nx_n$

subject to  $a_{11}x_1 + a_{12}x_2 + \dots + a_{1n}x_n = 1$   
 $a_{21}x_1 + a_{22}x_2 + \dots + a_{2n}x_n = 1$   
 $\vdots$   
 $a_{m1}x_1 + a_{m2}x_2 + \dots + a_{mn}x_n = 1$   
 $x_j \in \{0,1\}$

Each column is a round trip

Each row is a flight leg

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## Set Partitioning

□ Optimization problem: find the set of round trips with minimum cost such that satisfy the constraints.

➤ **Set Partitioning problem**

□ Constraints are called partitioning equations

□ Variables  $x_j$  equal to 1 in a solution are a *partition*.

$$J^l = \{j : x_j^l = 1\}$$

□ Problem is NP-hard

□ Well studied like TSP, graph coloring, bin packing, etc.

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## Possible solution

□ Use the concept of **row prices**.

□ The vector  $\bar{\rho}^l = (\rho_1^l, \rho_2^l, \dots, \rho_m^l)$

is a set of feasible row prices if

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \rho_i^l a_{ij} = c_j, \quad j \in J^l$$

□ Price  $\rho_i^l$  is an estimate of the cost of covering a flight leg  $i$  using solution  $J^l$

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## Change partition

□ Let  $Z^1$  ( $Z^2$ ) denote the objective value of partition 1 (2)

□ Then  $Z^2 = Z^1 - \sum_{j \in J^2} \sum_{i=1}^m (\rho_i^1 a_{ij} - c_j)$

□ *Potential savings* of including column  $j$  with respect to 1st partition is:

$$\sigma_j = \sum_{i=1}^m (\rho_i^1 a_{ij} - c_j)$$

□ If all negative then solution  $J^1$  is optimal

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## Heuristic

□ Start with some initial partition

□ Construct a new partition as follows:

- Find the column with highest potential savings
- Include this column in new partition
- If all jobs covered stop; otherwise repeat

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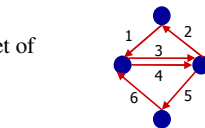


## A simple example

□ What is the minimum cost set of round trips?

□ Construct the constraint matrix

$$\sum_{j=1}^n a_{ij}x_j = 1 \quad i = 1, \dots, m$$



Round trip	Legs	Cost
1	3,2,1	10
2	4,2,1	5
3	3,5,6	10
4	4,5,6	10

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## Heuristic (Algorithm 12.6.1)

- Initialization: Pick any solution,  $J^1$
- Step 1:**  $J^2 = \{ \}$
- Step 2:** Find  $k$ , the round trip with maximum potential savings
- Step 3:** Remove legs in  $k$  from other trips
- Step 4:** Add  $k$  to  $J^2$ , remove trips with no legs
- Step 5:** If no columns are candidates to include in  $J^2$  STOP; otherwise go to Step 2.

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## Solving example

- Let  $J^1 = \{1, 4\}$ , cost = 20
- Find the row costs:

Round trip	Legs	Cost
1	3,2,1	10
2	4,2,1	5
3	3,5,6	10
4	4,5,6	10

$$\bar{\rho}^1 = (\rho_1^1, \rho_2^1, \rho_3^1, \rho_4^1, \rho_5^1, \rho_6^1)$$

$$\text{such that } \sum_{i=1}^m \rho_i^1 a_{ij} = c_j \quad j \in J^1$$

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## Solving example

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \rho_i^1 a_{ij} = c_j \quad j \in J^1$$

Round trip	Legs	Cost
1	3,2,1	10
2	4,2,1	5
3	3,5,6	10
4	4,5,6	10

$$j=1 \quad \rho_1^1 a_{11} + \rho_2^1 a_{21} + \rho_3^1 a_{31} + \rho_4^1 a_{41} + \rho_5^1 a_{51} + \rho_6^1 a_{61} = c_1$$

$$\rho_1^1(1) + \rho_2^1(1) + \rho_3^1(1) + \rho_4^1(0) + \rho_5^1(0) + \rho_6^1(0) = 10$$

$$\rho_1^1 + \rho_2^1 + \rho_3^1 = 10$$

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## Solving example

$$\sum_{i=1}^m \rho_i^1 a_{ij} = c_j \quad j \in J^1$$

Round trip	Legs	Cost
1	3,2,1	10
2	4,2,1	5
3	3,5,6	10
4	4,5,6	10

$$j=4 \quad \rho_1^1 a_{14} + \rho_2^1 a_{24} + \rho_3^1 a_{34} + \rho_4^1 a_{44} + \rho_5^1 a_{54} + \rho_6^1 a_{64} = c_4$$

$$\rho_4^1 + \rho_5^1 + \rho_6^1 = 10$$

- We can consider the average:  $\rho_i^1 = 3.33$

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## Algorithm 12.6.1

- Initialization: Pick any solution,  $J^1$
- Step 1:**  $J^2 = \{ \}$
- Step 2:** Find  $k$ , the round trip with maximum potential savings
- Step 3:** Remove legs in  $k$  from other trips
- Step 4:** Add  $k$  to  $J^2$ , remove trips with no legs
- Step 5:** If no columns are candidates to include in  $J^2$  STOP; otherwise go to Step 2.

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## Potential savings

The cost of round trip  $j$  based on current prices

The real cost of round trip  $j$

$$\sigma_j = \sum_{i=1}^m \rho_i^1 a_{ij} - c_j$$

Round trip	Legs	Cost	Potential savings
1	3,2,1	10	0
2	4,2,1	5	5
3	3,5,6	10	0
4	4,5,6	10	0

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## Algorithm 12.6.1

- Initialization: Pick any solution,  $J^1$
- Step 1:  $J^2 = \{ \}$
- Step 2: Find  $k$ , the round trip with maximum potential savings
- Step 3: Remove legs in  $k$  from other trips
- Step 4: Add  $k$  to  $J^2$ , remove trips with no legs
- Step 5: If no columns are candidates to include in  $J^2$  STOP; otherwise go to Step 2.

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## Solving example

Round trip	Legs	Cost
1	3,2,1	10
2	4,2,1	5
3	3,5,6	10
4	4,5,6	10

$J^2 = \{ \}$

Round trip	Legs	Cost
1	3	10
2	4,2,1	5
3	3,5,6	10
4	5,6	10

$J^2 = \{ 2 \}$

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## Back to Step 2: potential savings

$$\sigma_j = \sum_{i=1}^m \rho_i^1 a_{ij} - c_j$$

Round trip	Legs	Cost	Potential Savings
1	3	10	-6.6667
2	4,2,1	5	-
3	3,5,6	10	0
4	5,6	10	-3.333

$J^2 = \{ 2, 3 \}$   
Cost = 15

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## Back to Step 1

Round trip	Legs	Cost
1	3,2,1	10
2	4,2,1	5
3	3,5,6	10
4	4,5,6	10

- Calculate row costs
- Calculate potential savings

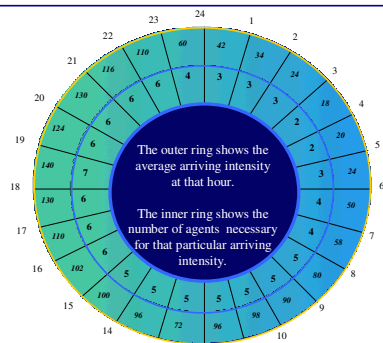
$J^2 = \{ 2, 3 \}$   
Cost = 15  
 $J^3 = \{ \}$

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## Operator scheduling in a call center

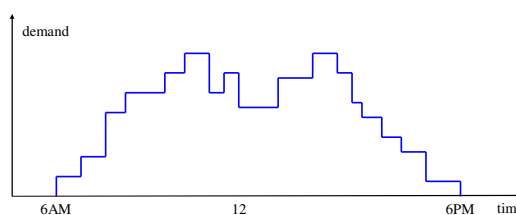


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## Call center scheduling: demand

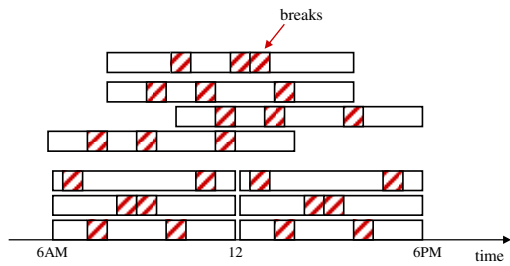


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## Call centre scheduling: shift patterns

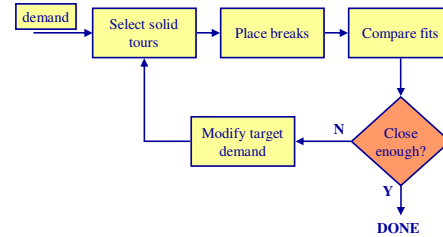


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## Solution framework (Fig 12.4)



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## Call centre scheduling

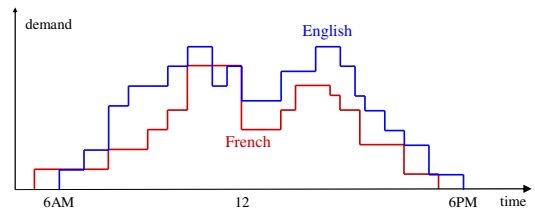
- Assign people to shifts to meet the demand and minimize costs
- It can be more complex: workers with different skills.
  - {English}, {English, French}, {French}

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## Call center scheduling: demand



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